Tovala taluk—will be considered by the Government. As regards roads, an investigation will have to be made ; but you must say definitely what the roads are that you want. We shall then look into the matter. Your prayer to levy tax only for a single crop in respect of the tail-end lands in the Tovala channel is noted.

Mr. Anantasubrahmanya Aiyar, Government regret that they are wholly unable to agree with your remarks regarding the Agricultural Department and the sweeping condemnation that you have made about it. In the matter of irrigation, every attempt is being made to do what is feasible with due regard to the funds at the disposal of the Government. In regard to agricultural education, an Agricultural Middle School has already been opened at Alwaye and another school is proposed to be opened at Kottarakara next year. The question of opening more such schools and more agricultural farms depends upon the availability of funds and trained staff.

Your remarks about agricultural loans and panchayats will be noted for consideration.

With respect to the cart track near Govindapuram and the road up to Erachakulam, these will be investigated and estimates prepared.

The subject of distributing agricultural loans through Co-operative Societies is engaging the attention of the Government.

In regard to the working of Irrigation Boards, the Land Revenue Commissioner reports that, in the Agastisvaram taluk, there are 44 block boards now, and that the Presidents thereof were elected in Kanni and Vrischikam, 1099. The Presidents of the Boards have been holding meetings and copies of the proceedings of these meetings are being received by the Tahsildar. It is also stated that circulars have been issued to taluk officers to render the Board Presidents every necessary help. Steps are taken to supply the Presidents with printed copies of Irrigational Rules. The following block boards, *viz.*, Kotandaraman, Bastow, Kulasekharamputur and Terekal have been formed under Rule 20 of the Rules for the levy of water cess. Government have given the necessary sanction to the same. The other proposals will be referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner for remarks. The Central Board will be constituted only after all the block boards have been formed.

Member.—Eleven members have already been elected to the Central Board. One year has passed and yet no Central Board has been formed.

President.—The matter will be looked into.

Your request *re.* the assignment of lands near Aramboly and Velimalai will also be noted and considered.

Then you referred to the capacity of the *para* measure. The Dewan gave the answer to a like representation on the subject at the last Session of the Assembly and the matter must rest there.

Your remarks and suggestions in regard to Regulation VI of 1085 (Weights and Measures Regulation) and your request for the opening of Village Agricultural Schools are noted.

43. Improvement of Agriculture.

Mr. N. J. Kuncheria (Member, Todupuzha taluk) complained that Government were not giving the people of Todupuzha even a portion of the facilities afforded to the people of Nanjanad in the matter of agriculture, in spite of repeated representations made at the previous sessions of the Assembly. He said that so long as Government turned a deaf ear to the prayers of the people of Todupuzha for increased agricultural facilities and for improved means of communication, it was not possible for them to put forward representations in other directions, and in order to enable them to do so, the Member requested that his taluk might be allowed to return more than one member to the Assembly.

The Member then explained how the influx of people into Todupuzha from other parts of the State reduced the area under *cherikkal* cultivation and how such dimunition adversely affected the output of paddy in the taluk.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

He next proceeded to speak about the means of increasing the output of paddy. He thought that the introduction of scientific cultivation on up-to-date lines and the use of artificial manures would increase the output of paddy at least by 50 per cent. He therefore suggested the opening of manure depôts and model demonstration farms in different parts of the taluk.

The next point referred to by the Member was the deteriorated condition of cattle. He said that, owing to the absence of seed bulls, the cattle of the taluk were gradually going down, both in number and quality, and suggested the advisability of maintaining seed bulls and of opening cattle farms to demonstrate to the ryots the methods of scientific breeding of cattle.

The Member next spoke about the damage caused to agriculturists by wild animals living in those portions of reserved forests that were lying scattered among the inhabited parts of the taluk. He said that the revenue derived by the Government from such portions was very trifling as compared with the damage sustained by the ryots, and suggested that an area of 1,000 acres lying to the west of Tala-Mala Makka Tandu in the Karikôde *pakuthi* might be protected from the inroads of wild elephants by digging a trench around it at a cost of nearly Rs. 5,000.

While on the above subject, the Member also referred to the difficulties experienced by the agriculturists in hilly tracts by the cancellation by the Government, in 1097, of the rules permitting the use of fire arms without licenses. The Member prayed that the resolution passed on the subject by the Legislative Council might be given effect to and that extension of time might be allowed for the presentation of applications for licenses.

Finally, the Member thanked the Government for having sanctioned all the agricultural loans applied for by the people of Todupuzha in 1098 and suggested that arrangements be made to enable poor ryots to get such loans without difficulty.

President's reply—Government are trying to improve agriculture as far as possible. Your representations for improving agriculture are noted.

You have spoken of depredations by elephants and the loss caused by them and you say that extension of time should be granted for taking out licenses for fire arms. I understand that none of you have applied for licenses. When applications are made, the matter will be duly considered.

The other point you have mentioned is that lands within certain reserved forests should be registered in favour of ryots for purposes of cultivation. This will be noted.

44. Development of paddy cultivation.

Mr. Nagur Miran Miranan Mira Rowther (Member, Nominated) began by emphasising the necessity for increasing the area under paddy cultivation in the State so that the quantity of paddy produced in the State might be made sufficient for local consumption without importation of foreign paddy. At one time the quantity of paddy produced in Travancore was not only sufficient to meet local demands but even left a small surplus for exportation, while the quantity now produced was scarcely sufficient to meet the requirements of even one-fourth of the population. Consequently people had to depend upon imported paddy for their livelihood, and when importation became difficult, as was the case during the recent European War, the people would be put to great hardship. Such being the case, the time had come for finding out immediate means to develop the paddy industry in the State. The need for the extension of paddy cultivation had become all the more imperative because of the constant increase in the population of the State.

While on that topic, the Member referred to the work of the Agricultural Department which, he said, was not achieving the objects aimed at by the Government. The activities of the Department were confined to places like Nanjinad and Kuttanad, and the people of the north-eastern taluks, especially Pattanamtitta, were not deriving any benefit from that Department. He therefore prayed that the attention of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly